

New York State Green Procurement Program
Response to Comments on

Proposed Specification on Wiping Rags and Cloths

Background: A specification for wiping rags and cloths was given tentative approval by the Executive Order 4 Interagency Committee on April 15, 2022. This was part of a package of cleaning products specifications designed to align with the work done on the new multi-state green cleaning contract (FAC118) led by the State of Massachusetts.

Commenting Entities: Clean and Healthy New York, Environmental Advocates of New York, Green Inside and Out, New York League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Issues Raised by These Organizations During the Comment Period:

1. **Remove the preference for microfiber cloths**

Comments: The commenting entities stated that there should not be a preference for microfiber materials due to the possibility of the release of microplastic into waterways. They also encourage the use of natural fibers as alternatives.

Response: The GreenNY Council appreciates the commenter raising this concern around microfiber and its contribution of microplastics to water streams. The specification has been amended in response to this comment.

Recommendation: Remove the preference for microfiber cloths and add additional specifications around microfiber products that may need to be purchased.